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**ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES
2005 HERITAGE TREE GRANT AWARDS**

Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Katherine F. Abbott today announced the awarding of Heritage Tree Grants totaling \$8,500 to four Massachusetts municipalities.

Heritage trees are those that have trunk diameters greater than 32 inches and are designated a champion for their species in Massachusetts, or have documented historic or cultural significance to the community or the state.

"Protecting these large and historically significant trees is an important component of our effort to preserve the character and quality of life of our cities and towns," said Secretary Herzfelder.

"The Department hopes that funding of Heritage Tree Grants will bring attention to the needs of our shared urban forest resource and our responsibility to maintain it," said Commissioner Abbott.

In the past six years, the DEM Heritage Tree Grant program has provided funding for 126 projects in Massachusetts, totaling \$282,000. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and administered by the DCR. A list of 2005 Heritage Tree Grant recipients is attached.

For more information on the Heritage Tree Grant program, contact DCR Urban Forestry Program Coordinator Eric Seaborn at 617-626-1468.

See attached list of grant recipients

List of Communities Awarded 2005 Heritage Tree Grants:

Natick

\$1,212 grant; \$1,329 match

The grant provides for the professional care and management of the historic Station Oak Tree on Winter Street.

Lanesborough

\$4,420 grant; \$4,447 match

The grant provides for the professional care and management of two Heritage Red Oak Trees in Wamputuck Park. The grant also provides for the care of one Heritage Sugar Maple tree on Maple Court near the town center.

Medford – Royall House Association

\$1,800 grant; \$3,000 match

The grant assists the Royall House Association with the professional care and management of four trees on this historic property.

Sutton

\$1,100 grant; \$1,101 match

The grant provides funds for the professional care and management of a Heritage Beech tree located in the town historic district on Central Turnpike and a Heritage White Ash tree located on historic Boston Road.

Total grants: \$ 8,532; Total match: \$9,877

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